



# WHAT'S ON NEWSLETTER

Term 1 Weeks 2 and 3 (Monday 7 February – Sunday 19 February)

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### Welcome from the Principal

Please follow the link <https://merici.news/news/principals-welcome-letter-2023> to find Mrs Masters' Principal Welcome Letter to our community.

### Collection Notice 2023 Student Residential Address and Other Information

The Australian Government Department of Education (the department) would like to notify you that we have requested for your child's school to provide residential address and other information.

Under the *Australian Education Regulation 2013*, the school is required to provide the department with the following information about each student at the school:

- Names and residential addresses of student's parent(s) and/or guardian(s)
- Student residential address (**excluding student names**)
- Whether the student is a primary or secondary student (education level)
- Whether the student is boarding or a day student (boarding status).

The school collects the above information by generating a **unique and unidentifiable** – student reference number (SRN) for each student record. The school only uses the SRN for this collection. **It is not allowed to be used for any other purpose.** The number only indicates to the department that each record provided is for one student.

### Purpose of the Collection

The Student Residential Address and Other Information Collection (the Collection) informs Australian Government school education policy and helps ensure funding for non-government schools is based on need.

The information collected will be used to inform school funding calculations. It is combined with Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data to calculate a non-government school community's capacity to contribute to schooling costs.

### Use and Disclosure of Personal Information

Your personal information is protected by law under the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth) (Privacy Act). Personal information is information or an opinion about an identifiable individual. Personal information includes an individual's name and contact details.

### What do you need to do?

You are not required to do anything. Your school is responsible for providing the department with the requested details; however, you can contact the school to update your family's details.

For full information, please click [here](#).

## Staff News 2023

We welcome the following staff members for 2023:

- Deputy Principal Development: Nicola McLennan
- Head of Mission and Community: Veronica Harrold-Carter
- Academic Coordinator: Bianca Porcheddu
- Literacy Coordinator: Nicole Commins
- HPE Coordinator: Kylie Olsthoorn
- RE Teacher & Indigenous Officer: Alyssa Markmann
- Languages Teacher: Tina Rodriguez
- Languages and HASS Teacher: Giuseppe Battaglia
- Hospitality: Jasmine Pitts
- Maths: Mick Lewthwaite
- Science: Katherine Morris
- Science: Victoria Goss
- Inclusive Education: Jo Drummond
- Inclusive Education: Diana Cruz
- Inclusive Education: Tatiana Manna
- Inclusive Education: Callan Martin
- Administration Support: Yvonne Morris
- Uniform Shop Assistant: Jane Rosewarne
- School Counsellor: Chelsea Kent

Long Service Leave/Leave: Kathryn White, Fabrice Boone, Oliver Barlow, Amy Connellan

## Uniform expectations: Wear our uniform with pride!

Our Merici uniform is highly recognisable in the Canberra community and a symbol of our collective identity. Our smart blazers and navy uniform are highly regarded by members of the Canberra community, and they know a Merici Student when they see one. Every Merici student is an ambassador for our College and there is an expectation that uniforms will be worn in a responsible and respectful manner, to the highest standard of presentation.

Please familiarise yourselves with the uniform guidelines and support the College in its efforts to ensure the uniform is worn with pride and respect, <https://www.merici.act.edu.au/my-merici/resources/uniforms>.

We will be working closely with students and families to follow up on any uniform concerns to reinforce our belief that the uniform helps create a sense of belonging and contributes to our strong school spirit.

For further information, please contact Kate Durham, Deputy Principal Wellbeing ([kate.durham@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:kate.durham@merici.act.edu.au)).

## Communication and Use of Mobile Phones:

We understand that mobile phones and technology are now a key part of modern life. Most students own a mobile phone with access to the internet and for safety reasons students will carry a mobile phone to contact home after or before school. However, mobile phones can and often do lead to several problems in school such as bullying, filming, disruption to lessons and inappropriate usage of the internet and social media leading to potential safeguarding issues.

Here at the Merici, we strongly encourage our students to develop socially and emotionally. This development is just as important as any academic progress or grades. Improving social skills and emotional development can best be done by talking to each other, interacting and developing real connections at break and lunchtime, as opposed to using their mobile phones.

For these reasons, the use of mobile phones on the school site, during school hours is as follows:

### Year 7-10

During the school day, during lesson time, students must not, under any circumstances, use mobile phones to make calls, send text messages, access the internet, access social media sites, take photos or use other applications.

Students can access their phones to check messages and respond briefly via text message during morning tea and lunch while at their locker. Students are not to use their phones in any other part of the school grounds during morning tea and lunch.

During class time, students must store their mobile phones in a secure locker (**Years 7-10**) or switched off (**Years 11-12**) unless given specific permission from their teacher, or if approval has been given by the College, for example to manage medical conditions.

Any student in Year 7-10 seen using their mobile phone during school hours, including break and lunchtimes, will have their phone confiscated. This will come into effect from Week 4, to allow Students to become familiar with the new changes.

Parents are asked to contact Student Services if there is a need to get a message to your daughter during the school day. Please do not message or call your daughters directly during the school day. If it is urgent and/or an emergency, we ask that you call reception on 6243 4100, they will find a trusted adult that will deliver the message to your daughter and support her. If your daughter is not feeling well, she is to find her PC or House Coordinator. Parents will be contacted by the college if necessary.

For further information, please contact Kate Durham, Deputy Principal Welbeing ([kate.durham@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:kate.durham@merici.act.edu.au)).

### Welcome Milo!

Roxy is very happy to announce that she has a new friend, Milo, who will be joining us at Merici.

Milo is a Toy Cavoodle and he recently celebrated his first birthday. Milo has passed puppy school and has undertaken a level one obedience course. He completed his induction as a therapy dog at his previous school and is very excited to be joining the Merici Community.

Milo loves to cuddle and will greet you with a happy smile. He's very attached to his mum, Mrs Harrold-Carter and loves coming to work with her. Milo will be living in the Mission and Ministry Office and is looking forward to meeting you all.

Please click [here](#) to find our School Dog policy and procedures.

## Meet our Coordinators

Over the next few weeks, we will be introducing you to our new Coordinators.



### **Bianca Porcheddu, Merici College Academic Coordinator**

Bianca has over 20 years' experience having worked across NSW and ACT in independent, Catholic schools, public education, International Baccalaureate schools and in Italy at the Polytechnic University of Turin. Born as an identical twin in Wollongong from a Sardinian-Italian family, Bianca has fond memories of attending St Mary Star of the Sea College, an all-girls Catholic school where those foundations provided many opportunities to excel as an elite and internationally respected professional musician whilst pursuing a career in education. Bianca completed a Masters of Historical Performance Practice under the Queens Trust of Australia Award and Nuffic Dutch Government Scholarship, a Diploma in

Secondary Education and 1<sup>st</sup> Class Honours from the Australian National University. At Bianca's previous school posting she was Leader of Information and Media Literacy and member of the School Board for four years. Her teaching areas include Integrated Humanities, English and she was Director of Music at an all-girls secondary school in Bathurst. As a fluent speaker of Italian, Bianca has also taught Italian from K-12 and led several international tours for secondary school students. For Bianca's dedication, commitment and excellence in the pursuit of a career that honours the Australian and Italian communities, she was recognised with the Italo-Australian Woman of the Year Award.

Whilst maintaining a career in education, Bianca has been a member of the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra since 1998, recently performed with the Leipzig Baroque Orchestra in Germany, holds an extensive discography collection, including sound tracks for films including Spectre (James Bond), and currently leads the Canberra Bach Ensemble. In 2022, Bianca was invited as a protagonist to film an international cinematic documentary titled "Living Bach" due to be released later in 2023. The narrative explores traces and influences of the Baroque composer JS Bach on the lives of our First Nations People in Central Australia where a school was formed by the Lutheran Missionaries over 140 years ago to support women and children. As Bach modelled the traits of a life-long learner, thinker and risk-taker in his intellectual, social and artistic explorations, Bianca believes passionately that learning gives creativity, creativity provokes thinking and thinking provides knowledge. As an educator, Bianca believes our role is to help build a society where young people can become respectful, empathetic, honest, happy and successful through their learning experiences; It is when people are happy that so much can be achieved.

We welcome Bianca to our school community.

## Academic Coordinator's Update

It has been a real joy to see the buzz and excitement circulating in our school community this week. The positive interactions between students, teachers, support staff and families that I have seen in only just the first few days of school is truly impressive. Teachers have been working incredibly hard in their teams to prepare their units so that they can provoke curiosity, inspiration, challenge and of course inclusivity in every classroom setting.

It is completely normal for students and parents to sometimes feel an anticipated sense of anxiety about how the year will pan out. At the end of the day, our intentions are all equal in that we all want the best outcomes to be achieved for every Merici student, whether it is in their social and emotional development or at an academic level. New classes can sometimes present such challenges or inhibitions and we provide many avenues to support our young women through such hurdles.

When preparing new timetable structures, we look very carefully at the student's recent academic records and elective preferences. The leadership team works very closely with House Coordinators, Subject Coordinators and with the teacher's invaluable input to ensure students are placed at the right academic level. In addition to this process, we need to balance this structure equitably to ensure class sizes are at the correct capacity. In most cases, it is possible to honour the student's chosen preferences. On some occasions classes are simply at full capacity and this leaves little or no room for adjustments, especially once the courses begin.

At our Assembly earlier this week, all students were reminded that class changes are not possible on the grounds of friendships or relationship conflicts. Instead, Merici encourages our students to embrace those setbacks with an open mindset, build resilience and above all, learn to develop positive relationships so we thrive as an inclusive community. Students are strongly encouraged to speak to their classroom teacher as a starting point if they are struggling in a particular class. Students can also reach out to their Pastoral Care teacher for their wellbeing support as they see them every day of the week.

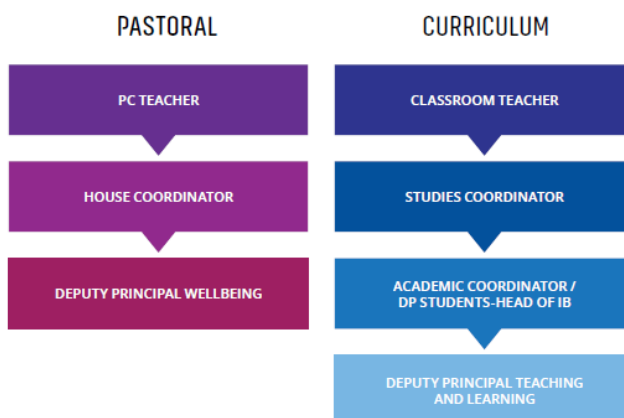
A useful flowchart about where students can go to if they need help can be found in the student's school planners.

Wishing everyone a fabulous and fruitful 2023.

*Bianca Porcheddu, Academic Coordinator*

## DO YOU NEED HELP?

### WHO SHOULD YOU GO TO FIRST?



### IF YOU NEED HELP AND YOU ARE NOT AT SCHOOL SOME HELPFUL RESOURCES ARE:

- A trusted adult in your life;
- Headspace ACT, (02) 6201 5343;
- Kids Help Line, 1800 551 800;
- MoodGym, [www.moodgym.com.au](http://www.moodgym.com.au);
- Beyondblue, 1300 224 636;

## COUNSELLORS CORNER

It is such a joy to listen to the hive of activity and buzz of excitement filling the corridors of Merici College! I feel honoured to part of the Merici school community again this year and am very excited to see what 2023 will bring. One thing that I have learnt throughout 2022, is that Merici college is inclusive, supportive, and kind and I look forward to watching this thrive throughout the year.

I am excited to announce that this year we welcome a new member to our counselling team and the college community, Chelsea Kent.

*"A big warm hello to all the students, families and teaching and support staff at Merici. I am Chelsea, and I will be joining forces with the lovely Hannah as the second School Counsellor for Merici College. I will be at Merici Monday's, Thursday's and Friday's. Please pop by Hannah's or I's office to say hello! I speak on behalf of Hannah and I, when I say we are so excited to embrace the Merici community this year and look forward to strengthening relationships, focusing on student wellbeing and embracing all academic and positive learning outcomes."*

Being a part of a community can have a positive impact on our mental health and emotional wellbeing – it can also offer extra meaning and purpose to everyday life. As social beings, we are not meant to live in isolation. Community spirit, solidarity and togetherness are critical for us to thrive.

Over these initial weeks of the school year, think about the ways that you can become an active member of our Merici community and include others on your journey. Need a few ideas to get you started?

- Smile and say hello.
- Always choose kindness.
- Be brave and get involved.
- Approach someone who is on their own.
- Be a good listener.
- Help when and where you can.

Merici College offers School Counselling on campus throughout the school year and is delivered by qualified mental health professionals with experience working with young people who have mental health concerns. As school counsellors, it is our role to serve the educational enterprise of the school by fostering conditions that maximise educational equity, student wellbeing and learning success of all students.

School Counselling is a short-term, goal-focused therapy available to support students to reduce the impact that their mental health is having on their learning and life. It is important to know that School Counselling is not a long-term support service, and is therefore not always able to provide the length or depth of support that some students may need to maximise their chance of recovery.

Should you feel that your daughter may benefit from accessing school counselling, please speak with your daughter's house co-ordinator or email us on: [counsellors@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:counsellors@merici.act.edu.au)

We are looking forward to supporting all students to be the best version of themselves in 2023.

*Hannah Johnson and Chelsea Kent, School Counsellors*

## SchoolTV

We are excited to announce that Merici will be continuing our subscription to SchoolTV this year. The purpose of SchoolTV is to provide parents and carers with up to date and credible information on issues affecting teenagers and their well-being. Please take a moment to read the information flyer [here](#)). Please visit our College website <https://merici.act.schooltv.me/> to access SchoolTV.



**schooltv.me** AVAILABLE NOW AT YOUR SCHOOL

CONNECTING • INFORMING • EMPOWERING

**Essential information for modern day parenting**

SchoolTV offers parents a fun and easy way to stay up to date on the latest news and resources affecting teenagers and their well-being. SchoolTV is a unique online resource offering a range of credible information to support parents with the skills to support their teenagers and their well-being.

The purpose of SchoolTV is to provide a single source of information for parents, offering a range of credible information from leading specialists. Content includes mental health issues, cyberbullying, and more.

SchoolTV is accessible via mobile phones and desktop computers, making it easy to access from anywhere.

**What to know now?**

To discuss any issues relating to your child's wellbeing, please contact your school counsellor or the Merici College Counsellors at [counsellors@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:counsellors@merici.act.edu.au).

**Snapshot of Young People in Australia**

- 99% of young Australians are online
- 75% of parents feel digitally disconnected and concerned about their kids online
- 1 in 7 children experienced a mental disorder
- 1 in 3 girls and 2.5% of boys report being depressed
- 10% of youth are self-harming
- 15% of 10-17 year olds have suicidal ideation, 1 in 10 actually attempted it

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) 2021

## WHOLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

### Tulow House Day (Monday 6 February)

Tulow House will celebrate their 'House Day' on Monday 6 February. This is an opportunity to acknowledge, observe and explore the Brigidine Order on which Tulow House is founded. The Feast of St Brigid is commemorated on 1 February annually and is very important to the formation of the Brigidine Sisters.

Students will be required to attend normal classes during the day and will be involved in Tulow House activities during morning PC and PC Long lesson. Tulow students are encouraged to wear green accessories on the day and will celebrate together with Tulow cupcakes in period 4.

#### Guidelines for Tulow House Day dress

To ensure the Tulow House Day is as successful as possible, students are required to follow the dress guidelines below:

- wear green accessories with your full school uniform (green ribbon, green socks)
- please bring your full PE uniform for PE classes

We are looking forward to a very successful Tulow House Day and appreciate your support of this special celebration. If you have any questions or require any further information, please contact either your daughter's PC Teacher or Emma Kennedy [emma.kennedy@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:emma.kennedy@merici.act.edu.au).

### Opening School Mass (Wednesday 15 February 10.00am)

A very special Opening School Mass will be held on Wednesday 15 February for all students and staff. Parents and friends are invited to view the Mass via livestream at <https://merici.college/go/livestream>.

### Co-Curricular Activities Expo (Thursday 16 February 12:45pm)

Merici offers a wide range of sporting, cultural, community service, creative and outdoor activities for students. All students are encouraged to become involved in these activities. A program of social and pastoral events is also provided to strengthen the community and house spirit within the college.

An Activities Expo will be held on Thursday 16 February at lunch time in the Auditorium. The Expo provides students with the opportunity to investigate and enrol in any of the activities. Activity facilitators will be present to answer any questions that students may have. Please follow the link <https://www.merici.act.edu.au/building-futures/cocurriculars> to find a list of current co-curricular activities.

## YEARS 7, 8, 9 NEWS

### Year 7 Aspiring to Achieve Parent Workshops (Tuesday 7 February 5.30pm-7.30pm)

Parent Workshops will be held on Tuesday 7 February to assist in supporting a successful start to high school at Merici. The evening will commence at 5.30pm with refreshments in the canteen, followed by a rotation of two key sessions on the Year 7 Camp, Pastoral Care Support and Planning for Academic Success. Students are welcome but are not required to attend. Please click [here](#) to find more information.

To assist with catering and the preparation of rooms, please RSVP your attendance to [ros.parisi@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:ros.parisi@merici.act.edu.au) by Friday 3 February.

## YEARS 10, 11 AND 12 NEWS

### 2023 ANU Extension Program Year 11

The 2023 ANU Extension Program application link is currently open for Year 11 students interested in participating in the program. Registration will close on 6 February 2023. For further information, please click [this link](#).

## IB NEWS



### Personal Project – Year 10

Students have now been allocated their supervisor for the Personal Project. In many cases, this is their PC Teacher, however, where some PC's have many students in Year 10, other staff in the College have taken on these students for supervision. Students should be making contact with their supervisors to arrange their first meeting in the next 2 weeks to discuss their ideas.

Erin Barry is our MYP Facilitator this year and any enquiries about the Personal Project can be sent to [erin.barry@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:erin.barry@merici.act.edu.au).

Event	Date	Information
MYP Assessment Workshop	23 February 6 :00pm - 7:15pm	This workshop is aimed at families with daughters in Year 7-10 who are <b>new to the College</b> . Parents are invited to attend with their daughters to gain some understanding into the way student work is assessed and how rubrics are used. Formal Invite to be sent out to families.
MYP Awards Ceremony	10 March Period 6	MYP Year 10 2022 (current Y11 students) Award Ceremony. Families will be invited to attend and this will be live streamed and recorded for your convenience.
MYP Revision Skills Workshop Year 7 families	30 March 6 :00pm	A workshop for students and their parents to learn effective techniques to revise for tests and exam at high school. This will be an interactive workshop with practical strategies provided.

## Clarification of Process – MYP Years 7-10 Assessment

To support a consistent approach to managing student responses that are significantly over the word/time limit we have formalised our process in the unit outlines for your reference. This aims to ensure students who take time to edit their responses and keep to the word limits are not disadvantaged from those who go over. It also encourages good practice for senior level study where there are penalties for going over word/time limits.

<b>Outcomes of a Review of Assessment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In summative assessment tasks set by Merici College, students or their family may request a review of assessment grades. Students and others involved in a review should understand that there are three possible outcomes for a review against marks, grades, or scores:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a higher mark, grade or score awarded</li> <li>no change</li> <li>a lower mark, grade or score awarded</li> </ul> </li> <li>The decision must be based on the evidence presented in the summative assessment task/s in question.</li> </ul>
<b>Conciseness – Word Count and Time Limits</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is the student's responsibility to ensure that the submitted assessment task meets the requirements for word count, size, and time limits.</li> <li>Content that goes significantly beyond the limit of the task (more than 10% over the word limit or 10% over the time/size limit) will not be considered part of the submission for grading and marking purposes.</li> <li>Once the teacher has identified the response does not meet requirements for word count/time limit, students will be offered an opportunity to edit the assessment item in line with these requirements and resubmit for full credit to be awarded within a 48-hour window from the initial time the student and their parents/caregiver was notified. Resubmissions must be emailed directly to the teacher. Oral presentations completed in person, will be stopped at the conclusion of 10% over the time stated in the task. This applies to responses that are beyond the limits stated in the task.</li> <li>Students must check the task sheet for explicit information about what is counted in the word limit. Bibliography and or reference lists will not be counted in the word limit.</li> </ul>



We welcome Year 11 students this year into our Diploma Programme as the graduating class of 2024. It is exciting to see the program grow and we look forward to their journey through the Diploma Programme.

This semester is a heavy one for Y12 DP students with many Internal Assessments due. Students are encouraged to avoid signing up to additional events that take them out of class time to avoid adding additional pressure. If you have any concerns, please contact Natalie Fairfax at [Natalie.fairfax@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:Natalie.fairfax@merici.act.edu.au).

Students studying courses with Pamoja online will not formally start until 8 February. Prior to this, new students will complete an online, onboarding program to get familiar with the expectations and the format of the platform in Managebac. New students will receive an email from Pamoja within the week. Natalie Fairfax is the Site Based Coordinator for the online courses and will be a go-to person for any concerns or questions, in addition to the online teacher.

Students have been sent a link to the outlook calendar to book the IB Hub as a venue for their online lessons should they wish to use this space.

## Key Dates

This is a list of some key dates for IB Year 11 students.

Event	Date	Information
CAS / Extended Essay Information Session	14 March  6 :00- 7 :00pm	For Y11 students and parents. This session will outcome the DP requirements for 2 parts of the 'Core'.  Formal invitation to be sent out nearer the time.

This is a list of some key dates for IB Year 12 students.

Event	Date	Information
Exam Briefing	16 Feb  6:00- 7:00pm	Exam information session for all parents and students. Online via Teams – link to be sent out in an email to DP Families. This session will outline the formal requirements and processes for IB Final examinations. This session will be recorded if families are unable to attend at that time.
Italian Mock Exams	23 Feb	Italian students to attend school to complete Practice Exams for Italian. Students do not need to wear school uniform for this day and will not attend classes.
World Religions Mock Exams	28 Feb	All DP Y12 students are to attend school on Moderation Day to sit a full run through of exam papers for practice. Any additional time available once exams are complete will be spent on working on the Extended Essay. Students to bring own lunch, but morning tea to be provided. Students do not need to wear school uniform for this day and will not attend classes.
World Religion IA draft due	16 March	World Religion IA Final submission due
Italian IA	31 March	Final IA Italian Due
Italian Final IB Exams	9 -10 May	Italian Students will sit their official IB exams.
World Religion Final IB Exams	15–16 May	All Y12 DP students to sit their official IB exams.

## LANGUAGES NEWS

### Canberra Academy of Languages (CAL) Registration Evening

The CAL Registration Evening for 2023 will be held as an online from 6:00pm on Thursday 2 February. Enrolled students and their families will receive a copy of the Google Meet link via email. At this session, CAL will provide the latest information on program plans and assessment arrangements. Information on arrangements for the registration evening will be posted to the CAL Events page. Please RSVP [info@cal.act.edu.au](mailto:info@cal.act.edu.au) to secure your place.

For those interested, there is information on CAL's programs, via links to the current CAL flier and other information for prospective participants. In 2022, programs will be delivered in seven languages – French, German, Italian (Continuing level), Japanese, Korean, Spanish and Tamil. CAL classes will commence in Week 2 of Term 1 (Tuesday 7 February, Wednesday 8 February and Thursday 9 February). For scheduling details, please refer to the "Session times and venues" section of the Programs page on the [CAL website](#).

### Language Buddies Programme

The aim of the Language Buddies Programme is to provide extra assistance for students who are finding learning French, Italian, Spanish or Chinese challenging. The programme is available for any junior students who wish to receive tutoring. Students in Years 9, 10, 11 and 12 may apply to be language tutors.

Language Buddies sessions take place on the following days:

**Mondays: Italian**

**Wednesdays: French**

**Thursdays: Spanish**

**Fridays: Chinese**

Students may meet at **lunch time (12:54pm-1:24pm) in the Penola Flex on the above days**. If the above time does not work, students can work out an alternative meeting time. Tutoring takes place ONCE a week.

**The programme will commence from Term 1, Week 4.** If you were in the programme in 2022, you will need to reapply (with the opportunity in the forms below to indicate the student you wish to continue with)

If you would like your daughter to receive tutoring, please complete the following form together with your daughter: [Receive Language Tutoring Form](#)

If your daughter would like to become a tutor, she can complete the form: [Application to be a Language Tutor](#)

Please email Miss Clare Freeman ([clare.freeman@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:clare.freeman@merici.act.edu.au)) should you need more information or clarification.

## DEFENCE NEWS

Welcome to all our new Merici Defence families, especially those who have recently posted to Canberra. I hope you enjoy this fabulous city and college as much as I do. Families are always welcome to contact myself with any questions or to update family deployment or posting information. [Kate.friend@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:kate.friend@merici.act.edu.au) or telephone 02 6243 4190. I work part time and am at Merici College on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

### Week Two

Thursday 9 February, all students from Defence families are invited to the 2023 Welcome lunch in the OYC. Lunch will be provided by our delicious canteen, please RSVP to Ms Friend along with any dietary requirements.

### Week Three

Thursday 16 February, all Defence students and Defence buddies are invited to the OYC at lunchtime for some fun. BYO Lunch and water bottle.

Reminder Tuesday 28 February is the Birrigai Day Excursion, for Year 7 and 8 students from Defence families. Please return your consent form to Ms Friend to secure your seat on the bus.

*Kate Friend, Defence School Mentor*

## iC NEWS

The Information Centre (iC) is open Monday – Thursday 8:30am – 5:00pm, Friday 8:30am – 4:00pm. Students are welcome to stay after school, borrow books, study, or use the resources available.

Library Lover's Day is held on 14 February where we celebrate all things library, such as reading, literacy, authors, illustrators, and the most important thing... the readers and those who use this facility. We are encouraging our students to come into the iC to see the display and share "how your world is a better place because of your library?"



We look forward to getting to know your daughters throughout the year, whether it be to help with researching and referencing, to find a great book, discuss an author, pull apart a character and story, participate in book club, join the chess club, play board games, or to complete a jigsaw puzzle.

Happy reading,

iC Staff

## CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS

### 2023 Musical

We are so excited to be staging *Alice in Wonderland* as our 2023 school musical. If you are new to Merici, especially our Year 7's, we would love you to complete the following expression of interest if you would like to be a part of the show as an ensemble member: <https://forms.office.com/r/SHVSuu4WeP>. Remember, rehearsals will be Wednesday afternoons 3:30PM – 5:30pm, starting in WEEK 3 of this term. So if you are interested, we need to know as soon as possible!

If you have any questions, please contact Ms Fogarty or Ms Johnson.

## HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

### Claim the Date

2023 Swimming Carnival – Friday 3 March

2023 Athletics Carnival – Thursday 23 March

More information to follow.

## CO-CURRICULAR

### Working With Vulnerable People (WWVP) Registration for Volunteers

It is a requirement for volunteers (coaches, managers, etc) in any capacity with Merici College will need a WWVP. As the process takes approximately 8 weeks, you may like to consider applying now, especially since a wide range of sports begin in Term 1. It is free for volunteers.

Please follow the link to apply [New Application \(act.gov.au\)](https://act.gov.au).

### Dance Troupe Performance (Sunday 19 February 10am)

Our Dance Troupe's first performance will be at the Multicultural Festival on Sunday 19 February at 10:00am. The performance will be held at Garema Place Stage, Corner Garema Place and City Walk. All welcome to come along and support our girls.

### Music Program

#### Instrumental and Vocal Opportunities

At Merici College, students have the opportunity to participate in private instrumental lessons to learn a musical instrument or sing with one of our vocal tutors, during school hours on campus. Individual tutor rates are \$41 per half hour lessons. Lesson times are rotated to allow for flexibility with school timetabling.

#### Instrumental Tutors

- Woodwind – flute, clarinet and saxophone
- Brass – trumpet, trombone, french horn and tuba•Guitar and bass guitar
- Strings - violin, viola, cello and double bass
- Piano and keyboard
- Voice

#### Merici Music Groups

We also offer a wide variety of instrumental and vocal opportunities which include:

- String Ensemble
- Vocal Group
- Merici Concert Band
- Guitar Group



### Instrument Hire

Musical instruments are available at Merici College and can be signed out to students at no charge for up to 12 months. There is a security deposit of \$150 which fully refunded upon return of the instrument.

Please click [here](#) to find the Music Tuition Policy.

### Participation

Students are invited to join a co-curricular group at our Activities Expo held in Term 1 of each year. Enrolment in private lessons or hiring an instrument can be made by emailing the Music Department.

### Performances

Through the Music Co-Curricular Program students can perform at a number of events throughout the year. These may include; the Australian National Eisteddfod, Floriade, Open Day, Creative and Performing Arts Showcase, Merici College Masses, Grandparents Day, and much more.

**Contact :** Heather Lloyd, Music Department

Email: [music.program@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:music.program@merici.act.edu.au).

For further information, please click [here](#).

## OTHER NEWS

### Athletes Foot School Rewards Program

Our local 'go to' school shoe store, the Athlete's Foot Canberra, Woden and Tuggeranong, would like to extend a massive thank you to all families who shopped with them over the December/January period. They would like to remind us about our involvement in their School Rewards Program, that is, for every pair of school shoes one of our students purchases from their store, we receive \$5 back from them! This program runs all year round, so be sure to always let them know your school when shopping with them so they can link us to your families membership and continue being a part of their generous program!

